



9110-04-U

DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY

Coast Guard (USCG)

[USCG-2014-0414]

Cook Inlet Regional Citizens' Advisory Council (CIRCAC) Charter Renewal.

AGENCY: Coast Guard, DHS.

ACTION: Notice of recertification.

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SUMMARY: The purpose of this notice is to inform the public that the Coast Guard has recertified the Cook Inlet Regional Citizens' Advisory Council (CIRCAC) as an alternative voluntary advisory group for Cook Inlet, Alaska. This certification allows the CIRCAC to monitor the activities of terminal facilities and crude oil tankers under the Cook Inlet Program established by statute.

DATES: This recertification is effective for the period from September 1st, 2014 through August 31, 2015.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: LT Thomas Pauser Seventeenth Coast Guard District (dpi); Telephone (907)463-2812, email [thomas.e.pauser@uscg.mil](mailto:thomas.e.pauser@uscg.mil)

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background and Purpose:

As part of the Oil Pollution Act of 1990, Congress passed the Oil Terminal and Oil Tanker Environmental Oversight and Monitoring Act of 1990 (the Act), 33 U.S.C. 2732, to foster a

long-term partnership among industry, government, and local communities in overseeing compliance with environmental concerns in the operation of crude oil terminals and oil tankers.

On October 18, 1991, the President delegated his authority under 33 U.S.C 2732 (o) to the Secretary of Transportation in Executive Order 12777, section 8(g) (see 56 FR 54757; October 22, 1991) for purposes of certifying advisory councils, or groups, subject to the Act. On March 3, 1992, the Secretary redelegated that authority to the Commandant of the USCG (see 57 FR 8582; March 11, 1992). The Commandant redelegated that authority to the Chief, Office of Marine Safety, Security and Environmental Protection (G-M) on March 19, 1992 (letter #5402).

On July 7, 1993, the USCG published a policy statement, 58 FR 36504, to clarify the factors that shall be considered in making the determination as to whether advisory councils, or groups, should be certified in accordance with the Act.

The Assistant Commandant for Marine Safety and Environmental Protection (CG-5), redelegated recertification authority for advisory councils, or groups, to the Commander, Seventeenth Coast Guard District on February 26, 1999 (letter #16450).

On September 16, 2002, the USCG published a policy statement, 67 FR 58440, that changed the recertification procedures such that applicants are required to provide the USCG with comprehensive information every three years (triennially). For each of the two years between the triennial application procedure, applicants submit a letter requesting recertification that includes a description of any substantive changes to the information provided at the previous triennial recertification. Further, public comment is not solicited prior to recertification during streamlined years, only during the triennial comprehensive review.

Discussion of comments:

On May 23, 2014 the USCG published a Notice of Availability; request for comments for recertification of Cook Inlet Regional Citizens' Advisory Council in the Federal Register (76 FR 1187). We received 54 comments from the public commenting on the proposed action. No public meeting was requested, and none was held. All 54 comments were positive and in support of recertification. These letters in support of the recertification consistently cited CIRCAC's broad representation of the respective community's interests, appropriate actions to keep the public informed, improvements to both spill response preparation and spill prevention, and oil spill industry monitoring efforts that combat complacency—as intended by the Act. The information provided with the 2014 application package, follow up consultation with CIRCAC and public support through positive comments displayed ample representation of the communities and interests of Cook Inlet and promotion of environmentally safe marine transportation and oil facility operations.

Recertification:

By letter dated August 27, 2014, the Commander, Seventeenth Coast Guard certified that the CIRCAC qualifies as an alternative voluntary advisory group under 33 U.S.C. 2732(o). This recertification terminates on August 31, 2015.

Dated: August 27, 2014

Daniel B. Abel

Rear Admiral, U.S. Coast Guard Commander,  
Seventeenth Coast Guard District

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